



# Loudoun County Sheriff's Office

## Crime Prevention Unit



### NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH NEWSLETTER

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#### Important Numbers:

- \* **Emergency 911**
- \* **Non-Emergency**  
703-777-1021  
703-777-0445
- \* **Poison Control**  
1-800-222-1222
- \* **Animal Control**  
703-777-0406
- \* **Sheriff's Office Admin**  
703-771-0407
- \* **Narcotic Tip Line**  
703-779-0552
- \* **Crime Solvers**  
703-777-1919



#### Issue 6

March 1, 2009

### Countywide Residential Burglaries

Burglaries are continuing to occur across the county. The majority of these burglaries are occurring during normal daytime hours, 6:00 am to 6:00pm. The suspects are forcing entry through common entry points, windows and sliding glass doors. In some cases doors are pried open and in other windows and glass doors were outright broken out. The suspects are going through closets and drawers looking for small easily carried item. In a few cases larger items such as televisions were moved from their normal location and appeared to be staged near doors in order to move them to a nearby vehicle. With this ongoing trend in mind we would like to

remind citizens of the following prevention tips.

- Always ensure your windows and doors are locked if you are leaving your residence. Even a short trip to the store can be enough time for a burglar.
- Do not hide or store valuable jewelry in normal locations ie: Jewelry Boxes/Drawers. Burglars know where to look and will head directly to those places.
- Make the would be burglar work for what they may get. Burglars do not want to spend a lot of time in a home. Store valuables in non-traditional locations and in non traditional containers.

When you leave home look for any suspicious vehicles or persons in your neighborhood. They may be waiting for you to leave. Call and report them immediately.

When in doubt let us figure it out. Make the call, do not approach, and be the best witness you can be.



### Commercial Burglaries

There has been a recent series of burglaries at several small "country" stores in the county. In most cases the suspects forced entry by smashing out glass windows or doors. The suspects then steal various items such as

cigarettes, beer, and lottery tickets. Citizens are asked that if they are out late, to pay special attention to closed stores especially in isolated areas of the county. If you observe anything unusual call it in to the Sheriff's Office. It is our

hope that with the communities help we can apprehend these thieves and help our small business owners.

**Remember: Call it in, DO NOT approach, be the best witness you can be.**

## Frequently Asked Questions

**Q:** What does it mean when people say I have to “yield” to emergency vehicles?

**A:** Virginia Codes states that any driver upon becoming aware of an overtaking emergency vehicle shall yield right of way and allow the emergency vehicle to pass safely.

We prefer that drivers yield (pull off) to the right-hand edge of the roadway and stop since that allows the emergency vehicle to remain in the faster lane and continue in a straight direction without having to constantly change lanes.

Virginia Code also states that if a driver is approaching a stopped emergency

vehicle, the driver shall yield the lane (change lanes) to cause the lane adjacent to the stopped emergency vehicle to be free of passing traffic.

This means that if an emergency vehicle is stopped on the shoulder, approaching vehicles are required to change lanes, if able to do so safely, and not travel in the lane closest to the emergency vehicle. This provides a safety area for emergency personnel.

These laws relate to fire, rescue and law enforcement vehicles.

If you would like to have a question answered, please e-mail the question to **Nathaniel.Payne@loudoun.gov** or **James.Spurlock@loudoun.gov**



## Thefts From Lockers

A trend that was identified back during the summer of 2008 appears to be beginning again. This trend involves the theft of items from lockers at public and private health clubs and gyms. The suspects check unlocked lockers in the locker rooms and steal anything of value. There has even been recent incidents where car keys were taken and the victim's vehicle had item stolen from it. This trend is escalating and recent incidents have evolved into suspects cutting pad locks off and prying open secured lockers.

Tips for securing your personal property:

- Only take in what you absolutely need.
- Leave wallet and cell phones in your vehicle, secured in the trunk.
- Choose lockers near the end of the row. These lockers can be seen by more people and are less likely to be tampered with.

- If you use your own lock, do not secure your property with a cheap lock, ie: \$300 dollar cell phone, \$5 lock.
- If you are victimized, **REPORT THE INCIDENT!** If you do not report the theft we cannot compare the information to other incidents.



## H.E.A.T

HEAT is an acronym for Help Eliminate Auto Theft. This is a cooperative effort of the Virginia State police, DMV, and local law enforcement. H.E.A.T. provides a 24-hour-a-day, seven-day-a-week toll-free number—1-800-947-HEAT (4328)—for citizens to call and report information concerning the theft of vehicles, vehicle parts or chop shop operations. Callers may remain anonymous throughout the process. Additionally, callers who supply tips leading to arrests are eligible for rewards of up to \$25,000. For more information, please visit [www.heatreward.com](http://www.heatreward.com)

## Upcoming events

**March 24, 2009** Brambleton Groups: Home Security 7:00pm @ Legacy Elementary School

**April 14th, 2009** Ashburn Groups: Gang Awareness 7:00pm @ Lakes Recreation Center